

**Quarterly Report**  
**Q3: January 1, 2013 to March 31, 2013**  
**Emergency Assistance to IDPs and Host Communities in Southern Yemen**  
**Funded by USAID/ Office of Foreign Disaster**



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## Program Overview:

In March 2011, Islamic militant fighters seized control of the western city of Zinjibar in Abyan Governorate of Yemen. Yemeni government forces launched an effort to re-establish control of the region, resulting in prolonged battles that continued for over a year. As a result, more than 150,000 people were displaced due to the fighting and families fled for safety and shelter in neighboring Aden and Lahj Governorates.

During the initial months of the crisis, Yemen's humanitarian community quickly intervened to provide emergency assistance. With the conflict lasting more than a year and Internally Displaced People (IDP) continuing to arrive through June of 2012, many families required humanitarian assistance to meet basic needs. Soon after initiation of the project, the Yemen government declared the conflict over and IDPs started to return to Abyan. According to United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), as of March 2013 over 140,000 IDPs from across the south had returned to Abyan. With the improved security situation in Abyan most agencies, including Mercy Corps, responding to the situation were able to access the affected areas and deliver basic assistance and help returnees with their basic needs.

The Mercy Corps /OFDA program (hereby referred to as Mercy Corps) is a \$2.6 million program to improve sanitation and hygiene for IDPs and host community members in Southern Yemen. Currently Mercy Corps is currently operating in Southern Abyan. The program has three main components:

1. Repair the small scale water network in the Lahj host community and affected areas of returnees in Abyan to allow better water access for both IDPs and host community members
2. Conduct an extensive hygiene campaign in the communities to raise awareness of hygiene issues
3. Distribute Non-Food Items (NFI) and Hygiene kits to IDP/Returnee families

The program has helped an estimated 183,000 beneficiaries both IDPs/Returnees and Host Community Members. Specifically 48,000 IDP/Returnee families who received much-needed household and hygiene items through the NFI and Hygiene kit distribution.

## Performance Summary:

### This past Quarter Mercy Corps has:

- Installed the elevated water tank in Al Humeidah village, Lahj District
- Rehabilitated two health clinics in Al Kude, Abyan District
- Conducted hygiene trainings for 485 women and children in Lahj District
- Distributed 6,211 Non-Food Item (NFI) and hygiene kits to families in Southern Abyan
- Distributed consumables items from hygiene kits to 5,600 families in Al Kude, Abyan District

## General Program Accomplishments:

This quarter Mercy Corps successfully finished switching program activities to Abyan District from Lahj District in light of the rapid return of IDPs.

## Program Accomplishments by Objective:

Objective 1: <i>Improve IDP and host communities' access to water by rehabilitating small-scale water networks</i>		
Major Activities this quarter:	Progress During Reporting Period:	Expected Completion Date:
<b>Basic Repair of Water Network</b>	Two additional projects in Abyan identified and completed	Engineers to continue to identify projects through the end of the project
<b>Purchase portable chlorine level testing equipment for GARWASP</b>	Equipment and chemicals donated to Lahj Water Authority	Activity Completed (training done in Q2, equipment and chemicals donated in Q3)

**Leak detection system for local water authority**

Water meters purchased and handed over to Lahj Water Authority for leak detection system

Activity Completed

**Objective 1:**

There were three water projects finished during this quarter. The first was a water stand and tank for Al Humeideh village in Lahj District. The water stand will not only provide water for that village but also supplement the water available to Am-Burahah village. This means a total of 25 families (approximately 150 people) will have increased access to water. The water stand and tank were installed in February 2013. The community participated in the project by digging the 700m (0.4 mile) trench needed to run the water pipe to reach the tank.

Indicator 1.1: Number of the community water and sanitation maintenance projects implemented			
	Baseline:	Actual to Date:	Target:
<b>Number of Projects</b>	0	4	5
Indicator 1.2: Number and percent of household water supplies with 0% coliform bacteria			
	Baseline:	Actual to Date:	Target:
<b>Number Tested:</b>	0	0	0
Indicator 1.3: Average water usage of target population in liters per person per day prior to and after intervention			
	Baseline:	Actual to Date:	Target:
<b>Average Water Use:</b>	27 L per person per day; includes all uses	To be measured May 2013	To be determined based on projects
Indicator 1.4: Number and percent of water points with detectible chlorine level over 0.2 mg/l			
	Baseline:	Actual to Date:	Target:
<b>Number Tested</b>	0	To be measured May 2013	10%



In addition, two clinics in Al Kude, Abyan were identified as needing rehabilitation of their water, sanitation and hygiene systems (WASH). The two clinics serve a population of over 3,000 families (approx. 18,000 men, women and children) from Al Kude and surrounding villages. In each clinic the toilets were replaced, hand-washing sinks repaired, taps replaced, and water tanks installed. In the Al Kude Health Center a new septic tank had to be constructed for the clinic. Mercy Corps handed over the water testing equipment and necessary chemicals to the

Governor of Lahj and the Lahj Water Authority in February 2013. Water meters and valves to help control leaks in the system purchased after consultation with the Lahj Water Authority were also handed over for installation. The Governor appreciated the gesture and presented Mercy Corps with a certificate and a letter of appreciation.

*"When Mercy Corps first visited us I didn't think that they would do much for us. However, when I saw the staff visiting us more often and when they brought the contractors to the village I was very happy because this was a dream come true for us living here"- Mahmood Saeed Hamede (55 years old), Al Humeideh Village Lahj District.*



## Objective 2:

*Objective 2: Increase awareness about health and sanitation through hygiene promotion in the Southern Governorates of Yemen*

Major Activities This Quarter:	Progress During This Reporting Period:	Expected Completion Date:
<b>Conduct hygiene promotion campaign in market centers, public institutions and schools</b>	Hygiene campaign has been completed in Lahj.	Hygiene campaign to continue in Abyan through May 2013.

### Hygiene Training Attendees by Sex and Age

Age:	Females:	Males:
0-14	129	134
15-24	36	1
25-49	180	0
60+	5	0
<b>Total:</b>	<b>350</b>	<b>135</b>

Hygiene trainings for women and children were held in the final 4 villages (out of 7 who received items in the past quarter) in Lahj. Due to the fact that women in Yemeni society are responsible for most of the hygiene tasks, we chose to have them as one of our target groups, plus they can teach children proper hygiene. Children need to be taught proper hygiene at a young age making them another focus of the trainings. In total 485 women and children were involved in the training. Breakdown of ages is included in the chart above. Small kits with soap, washcloth, toothbrush and toothpaste were distributed to each child for reinforcement of the healthy habits taught during the program. Small posters for hanging in the house are given to the women and children. Large posters are secured to the walls in community places such as schools to make sure the message reach everyone in the community.



Topics of the training and posters include: hand washing, hygiene, water storage, responsible water use, water purification and disease prevention. This same curriculum will be used by the hygiene promoters in Southern Abyan. In Abyan our targets for the health promotion will include the clinics we have fixed and local schools. The baseline survey showed only a minority of people reported washing hands after using the latrine, as a result our hygiene promoters are focusing on this issue.

### Indicator 2.1: Percent of target population demonstrating good hand washing practices

Practice:	Baseline:	Actual to date:	Target:
<b>Wash hands before cooking</b>	90%	To be measured May 2013	95%
<b>Wash hands before eating</b>	88%	To be measured May 2013	95%
<b>Wash hands after using latrine</b>	30%	To be measured May 2013	60%

### Indicator 2.2: Percent of target population demonstrating correct water usage and storage

Practice:	Baseline:	Actual to Date:	Target:
<b>Storage containers have lids</b>	84%	To be measured May 2013	90%
<b>Treat water before drinking</b>	5%	To be measured May 2013	10%

### Indicator 2.3: Number and percent of clean water points functioning three months after completion

	Baseline:	Actual to Date:	Target:
<b>Clean water Points</b>	0	To be measured May 2013	4



Indicator 2.2: Currently only 5% of people in the baseline survey treat their water before drinking taking this to 10% would double this number. While we are teaching them about treating their water these are very poor communities with limited access to the resources needed to treat their water. Since we are not providing them with these supplies we are focusing on the knowledge end and teaching them about keeping their water storage containers clean and safe, which is something they can do with the resources they have.

### Objective 3:

*Objective 3: Provide non-food item (NFI) and hygiene kits to current IDP caseload, newly arriving IDPs, and pre-position returnee kits*

Major Activities This Quarter:	Progress During This Reporting Period:	Expected Completion Date:
<b>Distribute Kits to identified IDP/returnee families according to distribution plan</b>	This quarter 6,211 hygiene and NFI kits were distributed to families in Southern Abyan (please see details in table below)	The remaining NFI and hygiene kits will be distributed in Q4
<b>Distribute consumable materials</b>	Consumable materials were distributed to 5,620 families in Al Kude, Abyan	Distribution of Consumable materials will be finished by April 31, 2013
<b>Post distribution Survey of 400 families in Southern Abyan</b>	Surveyors started this quarter and have collected over 100 surveys	The rest of the 400 surveys will be collected during April. Data will be input in the computer, analyzed and reported on during the final quarter of the project

Mercy Corps distributed 6,211 NFI and hygiene kits to beneficiaries in Abyan between January 1, 2013 and March 31, 2013. Distributions were held in Al Kude, Ja'ar, and Zinjibar in Khanfar District and Lawder city in Lawder District in Abyan. All beneficiaries came from the list provided by the Executive Unit who is in charge of registering IDPs and Returnees.

To help provide logistical support including warehouse space and local labor, Mercy Corps signed a contract with the Society for Humanitarian Solidarity (SHS) to help with the distributions in all areas. Mercy Corps verified beneficiaries against the approved list, collecting names, ID numbers and signature or fingerprint and monitoring the distribution process. SHS laborers helped approved families on the warehouse side to load items for transport.

Indicator 3.1: Total number of NFIs distributed by type			
	Hygiene Kits:	NFI Kits:	
Total Distributed this Quarter:	6,211	6,211	
Total Distributed to date:	7,955	7,955	
Target Number:	8000	8000	
Indicator 3.2: Total USD cost of NFIs by type			
	Hygiene Kits:	NFI Kits:	
Baseline:	\$37.50	\$93	
Actual Cost:	\$37.50	\$117	
Indicator 3.3: Total number of beneficiaries receiving NFIs, by type, in compliance with SPHERE standards			
	Hygiene Kits:	NFI Kits:	
Total Number of People receiving:	31,329	31,329	
Breakdown by Age, Gender for Distributions Quarter 2 and Quarter 3:			
	Quarter 2:	Quarter 3:	Total:

<b>Number of Kits Distributed:</b>	1,744	6,170	7,914
<b>Number of Individuals Benefiting:</b>	7,541	31,329	38,870
<b>Number of Males</b>	2699*	15,559**	18,258
<b>Number of Females</b>	2686*	15,637**	18,323
*Sex Data was only collected for participants preregistered in Lahj during Quarter 2. During distribution only family size was collected.			
**24 families did not answer this question			

The number of individuals benefitting is lower than expected because the average family size is 5 not 6 as was assumed during initial calculation. Mercy Corps will be distributing the remaining items in Quarter 4, which will increase this number closer to our target of 48,000. Besides providing the initial hygiene kit Mercy Corps also provided families with replenishment of consumable materials. This includes additional soap, washing powder and women's sanitary pads. Mercy Corps staff distributed these consumable materials to 5,620 families in Al Kude. The rest of the consumable materials will be distributed in April 2013.

As part of the distribution of consumables Mercy Corps is conducting a post distribution survey with 400 families in Al Kude, Ja'ar and Zinjibar to help determine how the initial distribution process went. Findings from this survey will be shared among the Mercy Corps staff and other interested parties by the end of July 2013.



People receiving NFI and Hygiene Kits in Lawder City, Lawder District Abyan

### Challenges:

Accessibility of the Abyan governorate remains one of the most challenging constraints to Mercy Corps and other NGOs. Security is still an on-going concern both from issues with AQAP and the local authorities but also from Unexploded Ordinance, which continues to be discovered in different areas. Mercy Corps has overcome this by constantly networking with people in Abyan and collecting their assessment of the security situation.

Aden governorate experienced an outbreak of violence starting February 20, 2013, which interfered with program activities. Clashes broke out between government forces, Al Islah and Al Hirak (Southern Pro-separatist movement) resulting in the death of several Al Hirak members. In retaliation, Al Hirak launched a Civil Disobedience campaign of roadblocks throughout the city resulting in limited movement. Mercy Corps staff was not able to travel to the field during this period.

For security and logistical reasons Mercy Corps decided to sign a contract with SHS to distribute kits from their warehouses located in Ja'ar, Al Kude and Zinjibar in Khanfar and Lawder in Lawder District. SHS has been providing logistical support for other International Organizations and has been able to manage security. Mercy Corps staff is always on hand when distributions take place to verify names and monitor the process.